

REMARKS

Claims 6-7, 10, and 17-18 stand allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 1 and 12 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Witkowski et al., U.S. patent 6,098,110. Claims 2, 3, 5, 9, 11, 13, 14, and 16 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Witkowski et al., U.S. patent 6,098,110 in view of Gentry, Jr., U.S. patent 6,356,951.

Claims 6-7, 10, and 17-18 have been amended and claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16 have been cancelled from further consideration in this application. Applicants are not conceding in this application that those claims are not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner, as the present claim amendments and cancellations are only for facilitating expeditious prosecution of the allowable subject matter noted by the examiner. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue these and other claims in one or more continuations and/or divisional patent applications.

Each of the indicated allowable claims 6, 10, and 17 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Rewritten independent claim 17 has been amended to recite a computer-readable medium encoded with a computer program product. Thus, independent claim 17, as amended, is clearly directed to statutory subject matter under 35 USC §101 and is in condition for allowance.

It is believed that the present application is now in condition for allowance including each of the pending claims 6-7, 10, and 17-18, as amended, and is

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respectfully requested. Prompt and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner upon considering this amendment should find that a telephone interview would be helpful in expediting allowance of the present application, the Examiner is respectfully urged to call the applicants' attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

S-signature by

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